

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66601

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:DKUX:EI

APPROVED BY: NEW/INS:DKUX

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R 191412Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3549

UNCLAS STATE 130830

FOLLOWING REPEAT DACCA 2737 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD,
JUNE 17TH:

QUOTE

UNCLAS DACCA 2737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAI, BG, US

SUBJ: TAJUDDIN VISIT TO US DEPICTED AS SUCCESS

REF: STATE 126219

1. "PLANNING COMMISSION WILL BE MUCH RELIEVED
OF CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN COMING
YEAR," FINANCE MINISTER TAJUDDIN AHMED REPORTEDLY
TOLD PRESS JUNE 16 ON HIS RETURN FROM MEETINGS
WITH USG AND WORLD BANK IN WASHINGTON.

2. MINISTER QUOTED US SECRETARY AGRICULTURE AS
STATING USG WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING "LARGER QUANTITY
OF FOODGRAIN TO MEET BANGLADESH'S REQUIREMENT THIS
YEAR". TAJUDDIN SAID HE WAS "HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC"
ABOUT US SUPPLY SINCE COUNTRY HAD PRODUCED 1.4
BILLION BUSHELS OF FOODGRAIN MORE THAN LAST YEAR.
IN EARLIER PRESS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON,
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ACTING SECRETARY SISCO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD

MINISTER US "KEEN TO OFFER HELPING HAND" ON FOOD SUPPLY. TAJUDDIN IN DACCA ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 4 AND 600,000 TONS MIGHT BE FIRMED UP FROM US, THOUGH STILL TOO EARLY TO GUESS FINAL AMOUNT SINCE NEGOTIATIONS NOT YET CONCLUDED.

3. REPORTING ON MEETING WITH WORLD BANK PRESIDENT. TAJUDDIN SAID HE HAD TOLD HIM THAT FOR NEXT YEAR'S 150 MILLION. MCNAMARA'S RESPONSE DESCRIBED AS "NOT UNSATISFACTORY". TAJUDDIN CONCEDED HOWEVER THAT "MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK TO OUR NEGOTIATING FRESH AID WAS COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO UTILIZE" OLD AID FROM IDA.

4. TAJUDDIN COMMENTED ALSO ON DEBT QUESTION IN TERMS OF A BANGLADESH "REQUEST" TO BANK FOR EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY FOR PRE-LIBERATION AID DEBT, IN THE FORM OF A "GRANT" TO THE EXTENT OF 84 PERCENT OF LIABILITY AND A RE-SCHEDULED "LOAN" ON THE REMAINING 16 PERCENT. MINISTER INDICATED MCNAMARA WAS SYMPATHETIC TO REQUEST.

5. APPRECIATED REFTEL REPORT ON TAJUDDIN MEETING WITH AID. WOULD BE GRATEFUL ANY FURTHER REPORTS FINANCE MINISTER'S SESSIONS IN WASHINGTON.
BOSTER
BUNQUOTE SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOOD ASSISTANCE, GRAINS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE130830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/INS:DKUX:EI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740160-1046
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740632/aaaabasq.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 126219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by PhilliRO>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAJUDDIN VISIT TO US DEPICTED AS SUCCESS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, OVIP, BG, US, IBRD, (TAJUDDIN AHMED)
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005